Efforts to Control Floods

5323. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL:
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the opinion of the experts made at the Centre for Science and Environment that controlling of flood by building dam and embankment had actually increased the incidence of floods in the country, and

(b) if so, the policies of the Government to reduce the negative impact of floods and positive impact in the form of fertilisation and ground-water recharge?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA). (a) Yes, Sir. Such a view has been expressed, but evaluation reports of schemes have indicated that embankments constructed have by and large served their purpose

(b) Emphasis is now also laid on flood management through non-structural measures such as flood forecasting, flood proofing and removal of drainge congestion The positive impact of flood in the form of land fertilisation and ground water recharge is also seen in a few sub-basins

Proposal of M/S. J.M.R.P.C.O. for Foreign Collaboration for Fast/Processed Food

5324. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state

(a) whether the proposal made by M/s. J.M.R.P.C.O. Limited for foreign collaboration for the production of fast food/processed food has since been examined by the foreign Investment Promotion Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c). Government have approved a joint venture proposal submitted by M/s. JMRPCO Ltd., a company incorporated in Hongkong having NRI equity share holding of 60% and 40% share holding by M/s. Coca Cola South Asia Holdings, wholly owned subsidiary of the Coca Cola Co of USA with M/s Britania Industries Limited, Calcutta and Maharashtra State Government Agency for setting up a unit for manufacture of processed extruded snacks, processed nuts, stackable potato chips and non-alcoholic beverage bases/ essences in a backward district of Maharashtra by setting up a new company to be known as BRITCO Foods Pvt Limited

SCs/STs in Air India

5325. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Air India; and

(b) the back log of reserved categories and the steps being taken to fill up the back log?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes employees in Air India as on 1.1.92 was as under:-

Scheduled Castes	-	3347
Scheduled Tribes	-	887

(b) 156 posts reserved for Scheduled Casts/Scheduled Tribes to be filled by direct recruitment were vacant.

As provided in the Presidential directive, all necessary steps are taken to fill up the vacancies reserved for SCs and STs.

[*Translation*]

Koyal Karo Hydro Power Project

5326. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have approved the setting up of Koyal Karo Hydro Power Project; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the issue of export-import of wheat was discussed in the House a few days ago, I do not want to raise this matter again but for the news item appearing in a newspaper dated the 21st March.

[*English*]

The heading given here is : 'Tenders floated for wheat import. It reads as follows

"India today floated global tenders for the purchase of one million tonnes of wheat following refusal of the USA to sell the item on subsidised rate."

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this gives rise to two very important issues. Firstly, why did USA refuse export of wheat to India ? Our Food Secretary Shri P.Tripathi was in USA for twelve days and an so expenditure of rupees four lakhs was incurred on his visit. But his visit did not bear any fruit due to the Cuba issue. I do not want to go into that. Still more important thing which I would like to point out is that new crop will start arriving in the market in the month of April and the Government is hoping for a bumper crop of wheat this season. Under such conditions, the import of wheat would be a shear wastage of the precious foreign - exchange. Government announced whereas Rs. 250/- per quintal as the procurement price for wheat whereas in the international market, India would have to pay 168 American dollars per quintal which comes to Rs. 425/- in Indian currency. Had Government paid more procurement price to the farmers, it would have helped in augmenting wheat production in the country itself .

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very vital issue and I have given a notice on this. The crucial question at this juncture is whether there is any genuine need for the import of wheat for the country ? I have raised these two questions and I would like to have your ruling on it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister, in response to a question dated the 25th February raised by Shri Chandrajeet Yadav and Shri Nitish Kumar, stated that the country had 14.5 million tonnes of stocks enough for PDS for the month of Feb. and March and on the same day, in reply to my question, the hon. Minister stated that stocks available